

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02  
/076 W

-----261038Z 122122 /11

R 261000Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409  
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2217

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, PFOR, PINT, BG  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ZIA RECEIVES DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN RECEIVED ALL CHIEFS OF  
DIPLOMATIC MNSSIONS IN DACCA AT BANGABHABAN (RESIDENCE  
AND OFFICE OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT) ON MONDAY AFTERNOON,  
APRIL 25. ALSO PRESENT WERE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHAMSUL HUQ, FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK  
HUSAIN, AND SEVERAL OF PRESIDENT ZIA'S CLOSE MILITARY

ADVISORS. AFTER PRESIDENT ZIA SHOOK HANDS THROUGH THE  
USUAL DIPLOMATIC GAUNTLET, TEA WAS SERVED AND THERE WAS  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION.

2. ZIA TOOK ME ASIDE TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR  
OUR FOODGRAIN SUPPORT UNDER PL-480 TITLE I. HE STRESSED  
THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE FOOD STOCKS IN THE FACE OF  
CONTINUED BAD WEATHER IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY  
AND AT A TIME WHEN PREPARATIONS WILL BE UNDERWAY  
FOR A REFERENDUM VOTE IN MAY LOCAL ELECTIONS IN AUGUST, AND GENERAL  
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ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR. ZIA SAID HE VERY MUCH HOPED IT WOULD BE  
POSSIBLE FOR US TO PROVIDE A SECOND AN ADDITIONAL 150,000 TONS  
TRANCHE THEREBY MEETING BANGLADESH'S ORIGINAL 500,000 TON REQUEST.

3. I TOLD HIM WE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO HELP  
TO THE EXTENT WE HAVE THUS FAR UNDER PL-480. HOWEVER,.  
AS THINGSNOW STAND, I COULD NOT JUSTIFY A REQUEST FOR

AN ADDITIONAL 150,000 TONS GIVEN HANDLING AND STORAGE PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ANTICIPATED STOCK LEVELS AT THE END OF THE YEAR. I SAID WE WOULD, HOWEVER, KEEP THE FOODGRAIN SITUATION UNDER CLOSE REVIEW. IF THERE SHOULD BE A NATURAL DISASTER OR A SERIOUS CROP FAILURE, WE WOULD RECONSIDER OUR POSITION AND IF ADDITIONAL STOCKS WERE JUSTIFIED, I WOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO WASHINGTON. ZIA WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HE COULD NOT OBTAIN A FURTHER COMMITMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT SOME OF BANGLADESH'S STATISTICAL DATA WAS FAULTY, THAT WE RECEIVED CONFLICTING INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF THE BDG AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS IN HANDLING FOODGRAINS LAST YEAR. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION, WE AGREED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH AND TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW.

4. TURNING TO THE BRODER ISSUE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ZIA SAID HE WAS DETERMINED, NOW THAT THE CHAIN OF COMMAND HAD BEEN SIMPLIFIED, TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY ON MEASURES TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND CONTROL POPULATION GROWTH. REFERRING TO OUR NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS ON THESE MATTERS, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE AND PERHAPS EVEN EXPAND OUR SUPPORT FOR THESE PROGRAMS. I TOLD HIM, AS I HAD BEFORE, THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT A LACK OF RESOURCES ON OUR PART, BUT THE SHORTAGE OF SUITABLE PROJECTS BY THE BDG. I NOTED THAT BANGLADESH ENJOYED WIDE SUPPORT IN WASHINGTON AND SAID I WAS CONFIDENT THERE WOULD BE A GOOD RESPONSE TO PROPERLY PREPARED AID REQUESTS WHICH

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MEET OUR CRITERIA.

5. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERE AT BANGABHABAN WAS FAR MORE BUSINESSLIKE AND EFFICIENT THAN UNDER PRESIDENT SAYEM. ZIA HANDLED HIMSELF WELL IN THIS DIPLOMATIC SETTING, MOVED ABOUT FREELY AND PROJECTED AN IMAGE OF CONFIDENCE AND SERIOUSNESS. HE IS SPREAD THINLY AS PRESIDENT, CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, AND HE WILL FACE THE SAME DIFFICULTIES AS HIS PREDECESSORS IN MOVING THE BANGLADESH BUREAUACRACY. NONETHELESS I EXPECT TO SEE MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN A NUMBER OF AREAS.

MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT ZIA RECEIVES DIPLOMATIC CORPS  
**TAGS:** EAID, EAGR, PFOR, PINT, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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